B·W·I STUDY CIRCLE

DOMINICA – 1923–33 KGV BADGE ISSUE CONSTANT VARIETIES

BY ROGER B WEST

Vignette Variety

Position 10/5 Stamp 50
Hairline crack passing from Right hand oval
at 1 o'clock through King's Head
down to oval at 4 o'clock.
Recorded on ½d, 1d (violet) & 1½d (brown)
but very faint on each.

Frame Variety

5s Value Position unknown
Inner frame line broken
at just below centre at right.
Recorded on two singles.

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BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

OBJECTS

1 TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the islands that comprise the British West Indies and in addition BERMUDA, BRITISH GUIANA (GUYANA) and BRITISH HONDURAS (BELIZE) and the Postal History and markings of all other Caribbean territories during any period that they were under British administration or control, and those British Post Offices which operated in the Caribbean, and Central or South America.
2 TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features.
3 TO loan books from the Circle library (home members only). Borrowers bear postage both ways.
4 TO publicise 'wants' and furnish opinions on stamp(s) and/or cover(s) for a nominal fee.
5 TO encourage, assist or sponsor the authorship and publication of definitive handbooks, monographs or other works of reference appropriate to the aim in paragraph 1 above.

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SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS & INFORMATION

RPSL DISPLAY

Charles Freeland is displaying a West Indies Miscellany at The Royal Philatelic Society, London on 15 March 2007 with 40 odd frames on different topics.

BWISC AGM & AUCTION 2007

… will be held at Harmers Auctions premises (No. 11, 111 Power Road, Chiswick, London, W4 5PY) on 28 April 2007.

A map and transport details will be provided in the March Bulletin.

Please supply lots for sale to Simon Goldblatt by 12 January 2007.

BWISC CONVENTION 2007

21/22 September 2007 to be held at the Corus Hotel, Honiley, near Warwick.

- James Podger & Kevin Darcy – Cayman Islands – 'Once Upon A Time'
- Simon Kelly – Bahamas, Selected Stamps and Postal History

MEMBERS' INFORMATION

The Study Circle applied to become an affiliate member of the American Philatelic Society (APS) and we are pleased to confirm that our application was unanimously approved. Hence, the addition of logos to our front cover (we were already a member of the ABPS).

JAMAICA 1907 EARTHQUAKE

My thanks to Mike Rego and James Podger who supplied information. The contributions can be viewed on our web site under 'Articles > Jamaica'.

SUBSCRIPTION

Subscriptions for 2007 are due 1 January
Please view the bottom right of the mailing sheet to check your subscription status.
Please note: Due to the change in the US$ to GB£ currency exchange rate the Committee have decided that the subscription in US dollars should now be $25.

BWISC MEETING AT PHILATEX OCTOBER 2006

Reports on the meeting / displays will be included in the March edition of the Bulletin.

PHILATELIC COVERS BY ERIC BATESON COMMENTS BY DEREK NATHAN

I should like to take issue with Eric Bateson on one detail in his otherwise excellent article. This, of course, is about British Guiana.

Walter Husbands may have done the things he said, but, in addition, he made it his business to see that philatelic covers were carried on every first flight out of Br. Guiana during the 1930s. These were addressed in such a way that they all were returned to him in due course and I think he must have made a killing as he usually sent a number on each flight, some of them to the most obscure places. There were other people doing this, but he was by far the most universal in his coverage.

While on the subject, I notice no reference to Ernest Panton, of Georgetown, Cayman Islands, who was, I think, postmaster or assistant. He sent under-rated stamped envelopes to many of the West Indian colonies, to be posted back to him, with the idea of applying Cayman Islands stamps in lieu of Postage Dues when they arrived – there being no postage due stamps at Cayman Islands. These are, surely, archetype philatelic covers.

MEMBERS' WANTS

Item Ref	Description	Contact Details
JD002 5 Aug 2006	**WAR TAX OVERPRINTS** I would be interested to hear from members who have any war tax overprint material they no longer require (BWI and other British Empire countries) and which they would like to dispose of.	John Davis john.davis9@dsl.pipex.com

John tells me that he is "over the moon" at achieving a Gold medal for his 32-sheet entry of the Turks and Caicos Islands War Tax stamps, as part of the Thames Valley and District Philatelic Federation entry at ABPS Torquay 2006 – our congratulations to him.

BERMUDA (A List Available)

1938 1d – £1 (12v) 'SPECIMEN'		£995
1942 2/- CW11a SG116c Sheet of sixty		£500
1952 2/6 CW22a SG117d Sheet (2 halves) of sixty		£995
1953 10/- CW24a SG119f Plate Block of four		£90
KGVI A collection – to £1 including some blocks (available in London)		£5875

ST. VINCENT

1849, 1835, 1851 Pre-Stamp – Three Entires, all with strike 'ST VINCENT' to London (detail Photostat available)		£200
1863/68 SG5/7, 9, 11 (8 stamps)	[cat. £600+]	£185
1869 1/- SG13, 14 f/u	[cat £400]	£150
1871 A range SG15, 16, 17 (9 stamps)	[cat £500]	£185
1895 1/- SG58 f/u on front to Germany		£75
1899 QV ½d – 5/- mint with duplication	[cat £160]	£70
1899 QV ½d – 1/- 'SPECIMEN'		£45
1913 KGV 1d black Proof on thick wove		£175
1882 Postal Stationery 1882 – 1923 25 items including 'SPECIMEN'		£275
1938/47 KGVI 2/-, 2/6, 5/-, 10/-, £1 unmounted blocks of four (2/6 is imprint block of 8)		£175

Subject Unsold, Plus Postage or Carriage

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BAHAMAS

INTERPANNEAU PAIRS ON THE KGV KINGS HEAD SERIES

BY PETER FERNBANK

Figure 1

In 1918 a new 60 set key plate, Plate 2, was made and used alongside the existing 60 set Plate 1 in order to print 120 set sheets. One of the bi-products of the new sheet format was the production of horizontal interpanneau blocks featuring Plate 1 and 2 imprints side by side at both top and bottom of the sheet (Figure 1). The complete series exists in this format for the issues on wmk. MCCA paper.

All values printed for the 1921 series, on wmk. MSCA paper, up to 1929, also exist in this format. From February 1929 all sheets, with the single exception of one printing of the 5/- value, were thereafter supplied by the printers cut into 60 set panes, thus eliminating the interpanneau pairs. The two later values added to the series after 1929, the 3d in 1931 and the 1½d in 1934, were printed as 120 set sheets but supplied to the colony in 60 set panes.

Both invoices for the printings of the 3d (in 1931 and 1936) state that 60 set sheets were supplied, including the 200 sheets supplied to dealers from the first printing. Only one printing of the 1½d value was ever made, but the De La Rue invoice states the following:–

Private Day Book AL p.33116 Jan 1934

29,915 sheets 1½d x 60	= 1,794,900	stamps
Dealers	8,400	"
Specimens	424	"
	14,958 sheets	120 set
Cutting Into:	29,915 sheets	60 set

Numbering 29,915 sheets

(Note: The discrepancy of one pane may possibly be due to a faulty sheet being rejected)

From this it seems that only the 29,915 sheets were supplied to the colony as 60 set sheets. The 70 sheets (8,400 stamps) supplied to dealers were evidently not cut into 60 set sheets, and if so then a total of only 140 interpanneau plate number pairs (from both top and bottom margins) can exist. Since these were supplied to dealers, and hence, ultimately, to collectors, a fairly high survival rate should have ensued.

However, I have never seen a 1½d interpanneau plate number pair or block. Can any member verify the existence of a horizontal interpanneau pair (with or without plate numbers)? Replies, please, to 128 Sinclair Avenue, Banbury, Oxon OX16 1BL, or e-mail pfernbank.tiscali.co.uk.

MEMBERS' WANTS

Item ref	Description	Contact Details
TD001 5 Oct 2006	Picture Post Cards I am looking to expand my collection of picture postcards of the BWI colonies and am wondering if any members are looking to dispose of their collections or indeed any cards at all. I am particularly interested in Dominica, St. Kitts, Nevis, Montserrat, St. Vincent, Grenada, St. Lucia, Tobago. I would also consider interesting cards from British Guiana (which are not in my book), and British Honduras.	Terence Dickinson terencedickinson@yahoo.com

BARBADOS

RE: ST. LAWRENCE S.O.

BY KEITH H. BAYLEY

I saw a note in the June issue of the Bulletin written by David Horry in reply to one written by Fitz Roett relating to the use of the above date stamp. I assume that ERD means earliest recorded date and LRD means last recorded date. If so all of these statements are wrong.

As the St. Lawrence B. O. was not put into use until December 1938, why would the St. Lawrence S.O. only be used up to 14 May 1937? What would the P.O. have used for these 19 months?

The St. Lawrence S.O. was in use from 29 May 1933 to 12 October 1973. Before the P.O. closed, I took black and white photos, placed stamps on them and had them franked on Friday, 12 October 1973. At that time all 3 date stamps were in use. I am sorry that I do not have any left as I gave them all away.

From my vast stock of used Barbados stamps I can prove the above by the following examples.

23 Apr 1947

12 Oct 1973

The Bob Parsons collection of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co
will form my next auction to be held in February.
This award winning collection includes many fine covers
with manuscript Solent and a Cobequid wreck cover and Trinidad Coastal Steamer cancels.
There are covers from most Caribbean islands as well as South and Central America.
The full sale will be available for viewing on my website nearer the time.

My Caymans sale on October 26 went very well with virtually all lots selling,
some for rather eye watering prices.

New book in stock:-
Chris Miller 'British Empire Civil Censorship Devices World War II.
Canada and the Colonies in the Caribbean and North and South America.
1st ed., 2006. 300 large pp (approx). Card covers with spiral ring binding.
Up to date listing of censorship marks and labels with sections on each island
and including useful scarcity guide.
Price £35 + postage (inland £6, Europe £7, Overseas £13 or £6.50 surface mail)

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E Mail: Pennymead@aol.com
Tel: 01423 865962 Fax: 01423 547057

BARBADOS

THE SANDERSON CORRESPONDENCE BY CHARLES FREELAND

Those members who have an interest in early inter-island mail may have noticed the name of James Sanderson in Barbados as a recipient of high value franked covers (Figures 1 and 2). With the assistance of Federico Borromeo, whose terrific exhibit of Nevis in Washington contained three such covers, I have compiled an initial checklist of the limited number of Sanderson covers that I am aware of. This does not seem to be a large correspondence but it is worthy of note because many of the frankings are spectacular and several are the only known examples.

Two of the covers are addressed to law firm Sanderson c/o Carrington and Co and a third is to Carrington & Sealy Solicitors (Figure 3). By coincidence, this is the very law firm for which our distinguished member Edmund Bayley worked as a young man from 1952 to 1978. He tells me that Carrington & Sealy, the oldest law firm in Bridgetown still in active practice today, was founded by George William Carrington and Thomas Henry Sealy on 12 August 1872. James Sanderson was a partner in the firm between 1873 and 1892 and from 1905 to 1924. From information provided by Mary Gleadall, Sanderson engaged in significant property and land deals in St. Peter and St. Philip and court records indicate that he was litigant in a number of property ownership disputes during this lifetime. Court records indicate that the first case began in 1892 and this was perhaps the reason that he was not a partner of the firm between 1892 and 1905.

Most of the envelopes to Sanderson are foolscap size and presumably contained legal papers, hence their higher postal rates. To date, I have only seen one cover sent by Sanderson, which appeared in Fitz Roett's Washington exhibit of Barbados Britannias. Such covers are not easy to identify unless Sanderson wrote his name on the face as in the case of this 1879 cover but I would ask collectors of Barbados to check whether they might have other Sanderson origins either similarly marked or that can be identified by some other means.

So far as the Sanderson destination covers are concerned, the dates are highly concentrated in the middle of 1876. However, I have found one cover from St. Lucia that is dated over ten years later. This is a single rate in a normal size envelope so this would presumably have contained a private letter (Figure 4).

Thanks to Mary Gleadall, I can add that James Sanderson was born in 1848 and died on 19 January 1926 aged 78, preceded by his wife Mary Louisa (né Bend), who died on 15 January 1903 aged 54. Mary was also born in 1848 and they were married in St. Michael on 30 April 1874.

I would be grateful for reports to me or the editor of other Sanderson covers for the inventory.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Edmund Bayley
- Federico Borromeo (with special thanks for scans of Figures 2 and 3)
- Mary Gleadall
- Stanley Carrington

MEMBERS' WANTS

Item Ref	Description	Contact Details
GK001 7 July 2006	I am looking for the following **ST. LUCIA stamps on commercial cover:** 1949 UPU 12c, SG 162 1951 New Const 2c, SG 167 1958 BC Fed 12c, SG 187 1960 Stamp Centenary 16c, SG 192 I am happy to trade other St. Lucia or purchase.	Guy Kilburn guykilburn@hotmail.com

TO SANDERSON

Date	Origin	Writer	Franking	Source	Additional info
15 May 1876	Montserrat	Hollings	1/- (Montserrat Paid h/s)	P Jaffe	'C/o Carrington & Co'
26 May 1876	Nevis		4d, 6d pair	F Borromeo	Unique franking quadruple rate
29 May 1876	Antigua		6d pair	ex Gallagher	Double rate
25 June 1876	Montserrat	Hollings?	1/- (Montserrat Paid h/s)	ex Glassco	Single rate
13 July 1876	St Kitts		6d green	ex Urwick	Single rate
			To Sanderson, Messrs Carrington & Co, carried by private ship from Montserrat, mailed in Basseterre.		
16 July 1876	Nevis		4d vertical pair	F Borromeo (ex Gallagher)	Double rate
29 July 1876	Dominica		6d green (ms 8d)	Author	Dominica Paid
			Only recorded example of the perf 12½ 6d on cover. Ms 8s seems to indicate a double RMSP rate but no due marking.		
13 August 1876	Nevis		4d vert strip of 4	F Borromeo ex C Henry	Unique franking Quadruple rate
			To Sanderson, c/o Messrs Carrington & Sealy, solicitors		
21 August 1876	Antigua		6d pair and single	Author (ex Davy)	Red 1/- in ms
			This appears to be underpaid 6d for a quadruple rate letter.		
3 April 1887	St. Lucia		2½d Die 1	Author	Single rate

FROM SANDERSON

Date	Origin	Writer	Franking	Source	Additional info
10 May 1879	Barbados		1d	F Roett	to London
			Signed Jas Sanderson. With printed headline "Society for the Protection of Liens against Plantations".		

MEMBERS' WANTS

DM001 13 Aug 2006	**BERMUDA** Wanted to purchase – Bermuda Boer War covers / cards. Also any used Bermuda Picture Post Cards of any era	Dennis Mitton dmitton@hotmail.com
JH001 26 June 2006	**BRITISH GUIANA Embossed Envelopes** Townsend & Howe reference T&H 5 & 5A – 1894 Two cents in black with overprinted two cents in red with or without stop **but only used** T&H 7 – 1935 2 cents Brown – MINT T&H 8 – 1935 3 cents carmine – USED T&H 9 – 1938 2 cents slate-violet – USED T&H 10 – 1952 4 cents grey-black USED &/or Specimen T&H 11 – 1955 4 cents bluish violet in shades USED &/or specimen	James Hartley jamesrhartley@btinternet.com

Figure 1 (at 75%)

21 August 1876 from Antigua,
with 6d pair and single, plus red 1/- in ms.

This appears to be underpaid 6d,
for a quadruple rate letter.

Figure 2 (at 75%)

26 May 1876 from Nevis,
with 4d, 6d pair.

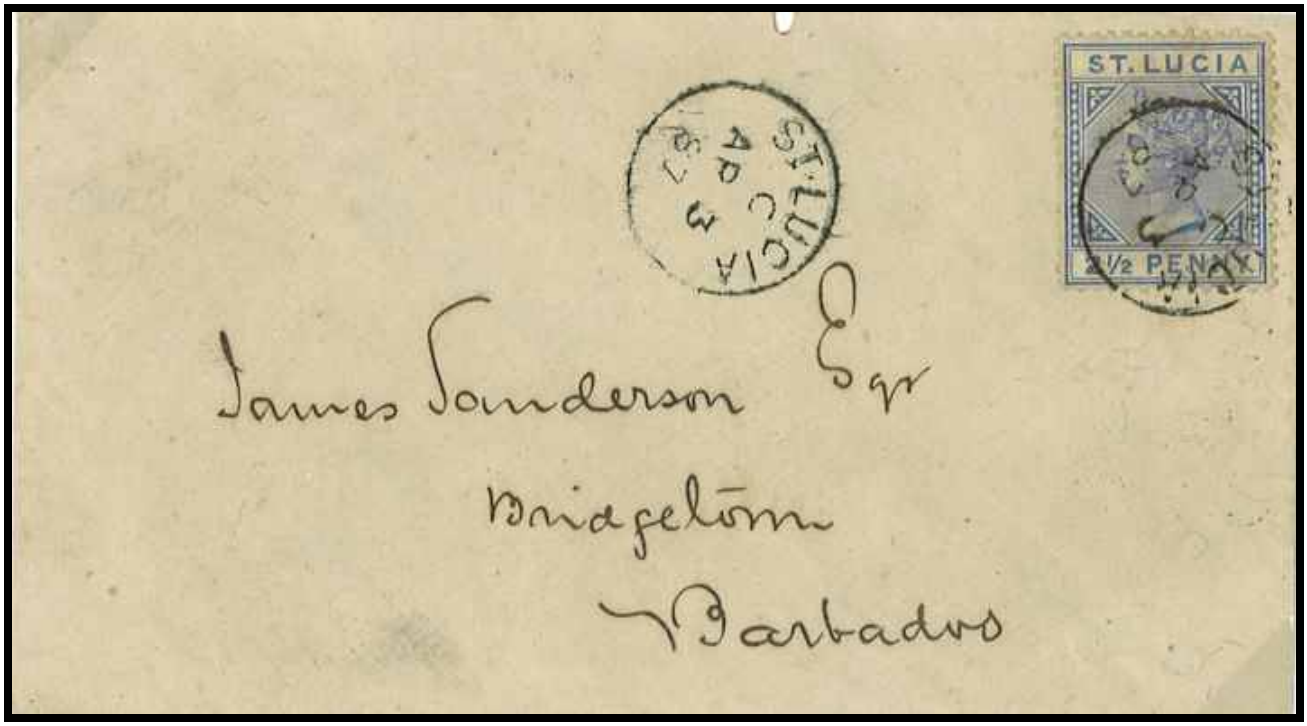
Quadruple rate, unique franking.

Figure 3 (at 75%)

13 August 1876 from Nevis to Sanderson, c/o Messrs Carrington & Sealy, solicitors.
With 4d vertical strip of 4.

Quadruple rate, unique franking.

Figure 4



3 April 1887 from St. Lucia with 2½d Die 1.

Single rate.

BARBADOS

GEORGE VI UNLISTED VARIETIES

BY RICHARD STUPPLES

I believe I have identified the following varieties additional to the normal listings of the George VI Stamps from Barbados.

Catalogues used:

- Stanley Gibbons 2004 Commonwealth and Empire 1840 – 1952
- 1997 Commonwealth King George VI Catalogue – Murray Payne (17th Edition)

Should anyone have any comments to these notes I'd be only to happy to hear them. Please bear in mind this is only my third year of actually collecting stamps rather than accumulating them, so please talk down to me, I may be able to follow the conversation.

SG 249b ONE PENNY GREEN PERF 13½ X 13

There appears to be a cracked plate flaw that is unlisted in either of the catalogues I'm currently using to write up my collection.

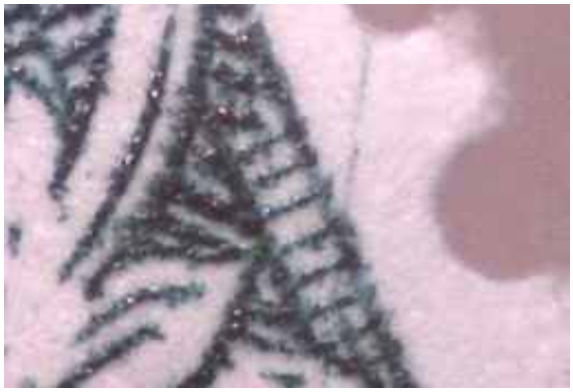
The crack appears to start on the second frame line in from the bottom, where it meets the oval outer line of the value tablet (it is far too fine to be a hair and doesn't appear to be a dragged flaw as it is moving straight and is of an even width).

The marking ink line then rises across the stamp at a five past seven angle until it is severed by the perforations. Does anyone have anything further to add?

As it starts from the second frame line rising across the value tablet.

Going across the Value Tablet.

Going up through the side border.



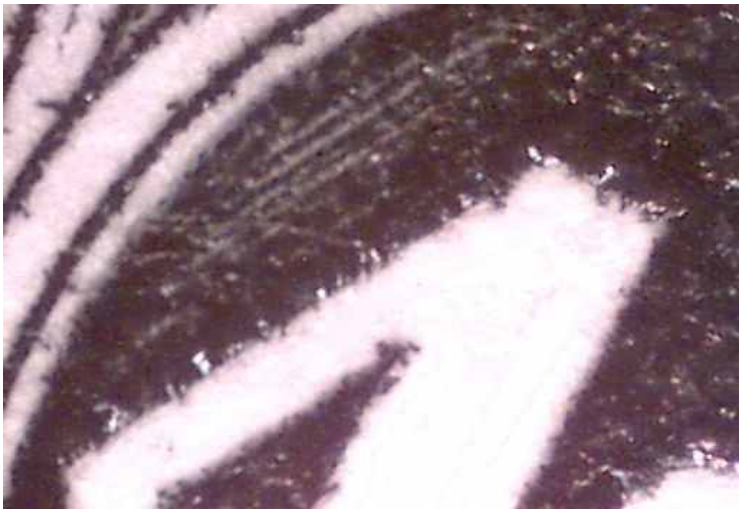
Cut into by the perforations.

SG252b – NOTED AS 3d BROWN IN BOTH CATALOGUES – PERF 14

I have a number of these stamps that are clearly a different shade including an unmounted mint block of four. The normal colour I would expect to find around the value tablet is a Sepia shade, quite dark and intense – as opposed to a number of copies that almost match perfectly the No 90 Yellow Brown from the 1969 Gibbons Colour Guide.

SG 253 BOTH PERFORATIONS

There appears to be a minor constant flaw on the plate within the value Tablet, on both varieties of the stamp. It is what I'm assuming is a weak entry on the background shading. Has anyone else noticed this and do they have any positional information regarding this, if it is to be considered a flaw – I have 4 copies all with the same indicator lines showing.



ALSO WHILST ON THE SAME VALUE SG 253 PERF 13½ X 13

This was found in the watermark. I at first thought it was a replacement A in the Multiscript watermark, but am now inclined to think, having seen it magnified by X60 that is either a loose A (I don't think so, as it would all be blurry) or it is a repair to the A in the Dandy roll as the left hand side of the A is at least twice as thick under watermark detection and it is not where the post mark passes over the stamp, causing an embossed effect.

AUTUMN STAMPEX 2005 EXHIBIT

CAYMAN ISLANDS – THE KEY PLATE PERIOD

BY JAMES PODGER

The following page is taken from James's Stampex entry, the Editor would encourage members to provide scans of selective pages from competitive exhibits for inclusion in future issues.

CAYMAN ISLANDS – THE 'KEY-PLATE' PERIOD.

KING EDWARD VII.

The Surcharge Provisionals.

The example, above, shows a jump during the overprinting, resulting in a partial doubling of the surcharge.

The 'Glover Flaw'.

15 Possible

The two examples, above, show forged overprints.
The example on the right shows the 'Glover Flaw', and is the only recorded example with forged overprint.

DOMINICA

1923–33 KGV BADGE ISSUE CONSTANT VARIETIES

BY ROGER B WEST

In an earlier life I was a keen collector of the stamps of St Helena with the King George V Badge Issue being a particular favourite. Apart from the sheer beauty of the design, from a philatelic point of view it was of great interest because of the numerous constant plate varieties on both the vignette and the frame plates. Having now parted with this collection, it was only a matter of time before I'd look for a similar issue with the hope of finding as many plate flaws.

The King George V badge Issue of Dominica was probably an obvious choice as it is similar to the St. Helena issue in a number of important ways – both were produced by De La Rue in typography, both appeared in sheets of 60 for values Halfpenny to One Pound and both involved a single vignette plate which was common to all values and a separate frame plate for each value. Apart from the value tablet, the frames are otherwise identical for each value.

For those not too familiar with the general details, the sheets were produced using a vignette plate of 60 impressions arranged 5 x 12 and this always appears in black. Around this was the frame, unique for each value, also made up into a plate of 60 impressions and printed in a second colour. Varieties occurring on the vignette will appear on every value printed after that flaw was induced, while a frame variety will be confined to just that one particular value.

Being familiar with the characteristics of plate flaws from a typo printing, I was a little disappointed to find so few flaws on the Dominica issue. My earlier studies of St. Helena resulted in 45 identifiable vignette varieties and a similar number of frame flaws. Dominica was going to be a struggle but I did manage to find a few and these are detailed here. Any comments or amendments would be most welcomed.

I have indicated the sheet position by row/stamp and stamp number, as I know both methods have their followers. I have also indicated the number of values on which each flaw has been seen and this may suggest how constant or prevalent that flaw is.

VIGNETTE VARIETIES

Position 2/3 Stamp 8
Tiny vertical crack
through the waves at the left.
Seen on ½d and 1½d values only.

Position 2/5 Stamp 10
A diagonal hair-line crack
through the King's hair.
Recorded on 7 values.

Position 3/1 Stamp 11
Two diagonal white lines
through the King's hair.
More prominent on some values
but probably occurs on all values.

Position 4/2 Stamp 17
Two scratches in left hand oval at approximately 3 o'clock.
Recorded on 7 values.

Position 4/4 Stamp 19
Tiny nick in outer edge of r.h.oval between 4 & 5 o'clock.
I have this flaw on a Specimen set, so it was presumably present from the first printings onwards.

Position 5/1 Stamp 21
Break in line of shading just as it touches the King's nose.
Recorded on ½d & 1d values only, possibly confined to later printings.

Position 5/2 Stamp 22
Vertical scratch across 3 or 4 lines of shading
at the top of the left hand oval.
Appears on 1½d (red) and 2½d (orange) but does not appear on 3d (blue), 4d or 3s (MCA or Script).

Position 5/3 Stamp 23
Large white flaw in King's beard.
I have this on 10 values.

Position 5/4 Stamp 24
Diagonal scratch in left hand oval at about 4 o'clock.
Recorded on 4 values.

Position 5/5 Stamp 25
Damage at left of lowest line of shading
below King's Head.
Recorded on ½d & 1d – not present on 3s (Script).

Position 6/3 Stamp 28
Diagonal scratch in right hand oval at about 3 o'clock.
Prominent on 1d (red) feint on 2½d (orange) and 1s.

Position 7/1 Stamp 31
Tiny chip in left hand oval between 7 & 8 o'clock.
Recorded on ½d & 1½d (brown) only – not present on 2½d (orange) or 5s (MCA).

Position 7/5 Stamp 35
Chip out of in right hand oval at about 6 o'clock.
Recorded on ½d value only, not present on 3d (both) 4d or 5s (MCA).

Position 8/1 Stamp 36
Tiny horizontal line in King's hair touching a detail line and appearing as an inverted 'T'.
Recorded on 10 values.

Position 8/2 Stamp 37
Hair line scratch in r.h. oval extending into lines of shading between 12 and 1 o'clock.
Recorded on 2½d (orange) & 5d (blue only) – not present on 1½d (brown) or 3d (red).

Position 8/4 Stamp 39
Chip on inside of right hand oval at about 5 o'clock.
Recorded on ½d & 3s (MCA) – not present on 3d (both), 4d.

Position 8/5 Stamp 40
Vertical scratch through King's Nose and may be seen extending right up to the outer oval.
Recorded on 14 values.

Position 9/3 Stamp 43
a) Vertical scratch through three lines of shading below the King's Chin and just touching his chin – not present on 1½d (red) or 2½d (blue).

b) White flaw in top of King's ear – Recorded on 10 values.

Position 9/5 Stamp 45
a) Break in line of shading in front of King's chin. Recorded on 8 values.

b) Chip out of left hand oval at about 7 o'clock – only seen on ½d (possibly a late printing).

Position 10/1 Stamp 46
Three lines of shading broken in front of King's neck. Recorded on 9 values.

Position 11/3 Stamp 53
a) Break in fourth line of shading below King's hair on forehead Recorded on 8 values, including two Specimens from first printing.

b) Lines of shading broken above King's Head only recorded on ½d and 1½d (brown).

Position 12/2 Stamp 57
a) White flaw on inner l.h. oval at about 5 o'clock.

b) Chip on outer right hand oval at about 8 o'clock.
Both Recorded on 1d (red) and 1½d (brown) neither appear on 1d (violet), 1½d (red) or 2½d (blue).

Position 12/3 Stamp 58
Break in ninth line of shading at right above cloud. Recorded on 3 values – does not appear on 2½d (orange), 1s or 3s (MCA).

BWISC PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM DAVID DRUETT AT PENNYMEAD AUCTIONS.

Author	Title	Price (Member's discount)
Toeg EV	Dominica Postal History, Stamps, Stationery to 1935	£25
Toeg EV	Leeward Islands Adhesive Fees Stamps	£10
Deakin HF	Advanced Barbados Philately	£13 (£11)
Jarvis & Sutcliffe	Jamaica Encyclopaedia Volumes 1, 6 & 9	Various
Oliver MN	The Leeward Islands. Notes for Philatelists	£53 (£8)
Rego MR	Steamship Lines to the Caribbean: Volume 1	£36 (£4)
Dickinson T	British Guiana Picture Postcards	£28 (£3)
Jessop S	Bermuda Civil Censorship in World War I	£15 (£2)
Wike RG	Airmails of Trinidad and Tobago	£25
Borromeo F	The Philately of Nevis	£13 (£11)

FRAME VARIETIES

½d Value Position 4/1 Stamp 16
Inner lower frame line broken to left of D.
Two examples both positional.

½d Value Position 9/1 Stamp 41
Inner lower frame line broken above N.
Positional block and two singles.

½d Value Position 9/5 Stamp 45
Inner lower frame line broken above I.
Positional block and single.

½d Value Position 12/5 Stamp 60
Outer right hand frame line broken towards the bottom.
Two positional singles.

1d Value Position 6/4 Stamp 29
White flaw below value on right hand side.
Positional block (1d violet).

2d Value Position unknown
Inner lower frame line broken at left.
Recorded on one single copy.

2½d Value Position 8/2 Stamp 37
Inner lower frame line broken just below centre at right.
Positional block and several singles (all 2½d blue).

1s Value Position unknown
Inner lower frame line broken above O.
Recorded on one single copy.

3s Value Position 11/1 Stamp 51
Diagonal crack to left of Crown.
Positional block and two singles including one specimen (all MCA) – does not appear on Script block.

JAMAICA

DE LA RUE 'SMALLER' WAR STAMP OVERPRINT

BY JOHN DAVIS

SHORT OVERPRINT

Two varieties are recorded – a) short overprint 2 – 2¼mm high, and b) 12½mm long.

THE OVERPRINTING PLATE

The British Virgins overprinting plate was used for several colonies. This has the well known variety on stamp position row 10/1 of the right hand pane 'short overprint.' This refers to the height being about 2 – 2¼mm high instead on the normal 2½mm high. There is a footnote to this effect in Gibbons for all relevant colonies, but not Jamaica.

DLR received a letter dated 19 May 1919 from *Ewens* drawing their attention to this short overprint, and they replied on 21 May to say that "the plate has been rectified".

This overprinting plate was then only ever used for Jamaica overprints.

ORDERS FOR JAMAICA WAR STAMPS

Three orders were placed on DLR for the Jamaica overprint: –

- Requisition 3/19 – with an amendment 5 May 1919 for ½d and 3d stamps. DLR confirmed that the BVI overprinting plate would be used. These were packed 12 June 1919. Quantities – ½d 995,760 3d 86,880
- Requisition 93/19 – September 1919 for ½d and 3d stamps. These were packed 15 December 1919. Quantities – ½d 1,010,160 3d 404,760
- Requisition 117/19 – November 1919 for 3d stamps only. These were packed 3 February 1920 Quantity – 3d 390,480

The BVI overprinting plate would also have been used for the second and third overprintings as there is nothing in the Crown Agents Correspondence Books, the Colonial Stamp Books nor the Private Day Books to suggest otherwise.

The overprinting plate must have been rectified on 20/21 May 1919, so the short overprint would not exist on either of the two later printings. The question is whether the overprinting plate was rectified before or after the first overprinting, and whether the short overprint can exist on stamps from this overprinting. Unfortunately the De La Rue Plate Issue Register, that would have provided us with the answer, no longer exists for the period prior to 1923.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

1. The short overprint variety is not listed in Gibbons, and the only current recognition of its existence is on the 3d which is listed in the Bridger and Kay 1980 Commonwealth Five Reigns Catalogue. (Incidentally, B & K also list the normal overprint as being 13mm long, but only 12½mm long in conjunction with the short (height) overprint variety on stamp in position row 10/1 – upper right hand pane)
2. *Stamp Collecting* 20 March 1920 reports that the smaller overprint in position row 10/1 of the right hand pane is present on the 3d from the first overprinting, but an earlier report of 6 March, referring to the 'second London overprint' records that the smaller overprint on the 3d had been altered to normal size.
3. *Ewens Weekly Stamp News* for 10 April 1920 refers to the First London overprint of the ½d and 3d, with a note that the short overprint '2.25mm high' is present on the 3d. They make no further reference to the short overprint on subsequent DLR printings of either value.
4. *JAMAICA ITS POSTAL HISTORY, POSTAGE STAMPS AND POSTMARKS,* Chapter XIII of which was written by H Cooke, also makes reference to the short overprint on the 3d – 2mm high and 12½mm long (instead of 13mm.)
5. *EJP (Encyclopaedia of Jamaica Philately)* page 01-09-03 records the normal overprint 2½ mm high and 13mm long. Page 01-09-28 refers to the short overprint on the 3d – 2mm high and 12½mm long, and on page 01-09-29 lists an example from Derek Sutcliffe's collection 12½mm long, but is silent about its height.
6. My researches have found no references about a shorter overprint existing on any of the ½d stamps.

7. All stamps of both values from my collection are 12½mm long, except some of the 3d stamps where the overprint is in slightly thicker letters, and the length closer to, but never as much as 13mm.

CONCLUSIONS

- The length of the normal overprint is 12½mm not 13mm. References to the normal being 13mm long may have relied on earlier philatelic writings, and not based on original research. Any overprints that are slightly longer exist because of pressure applied to the press, causing the lettering to be slightly thicker, and hence slightly longer. These are insignificant and not limited to sheet positions.
- *Relying solely on contemporaneous reports:-*
  With the first London overprinting, the 3d stamps were overprinted first, from the unmodified BVI plate.
  Relying solely on the lack of anything contemporaneously, or subsequently reported:-
  The plate was then modified and the ½d stamps overprinted.

Therefore:-

- *The short overprint 2mm – 2¼mm high does NOT exist on the ½d.*
- *The short overprint 2mm – 2¼mm does exist on the 3d, but only on the stamps from the first overprinting packed in June 1919.*

It would be interesting to know if Derek Sutcliffe's 3d referred to above has the shorter (in height) overprint. If so, in my opinion, it will be an important variety.

- Stamps from the second and third London printings were all overprinted with the modified plate.

I welcome comments from members, especially those who have positional examples of both values that will prove or could disprove any of my conclusions.

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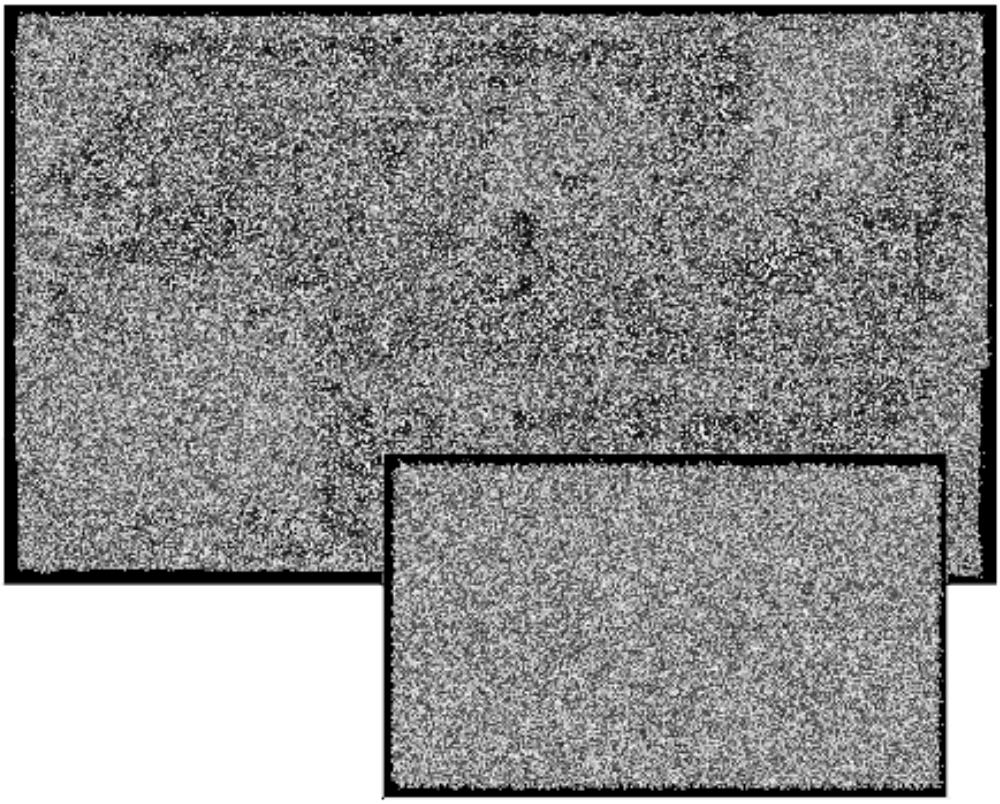

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LEEWARD ISLANDS

THE ¼d DUTY PLATE 1909–38 – AN INTERIM SURVEY – PART 1 BY PETER FERNBANK

Simon Goldblatt's excellent article in Bulletin 209, 'King George V ¼d Key Plate' (or is it 'Duty Plate'?), has shamed me into finally completing an article on this subject to which I first put pen to paper in 1992! My only excuse for not finishing it earlier was the hope that more material for study might become available.

Whereas Simon's article is an in-depth plating study based on material from Plate 23, mine is a more general survey of the history of the ¼d plate and the various flaws worthy of note (in my opinion) that developed on it during the life of the issue. It is based on material seen in singles, blocks (mostly corner), panes and complete sheets from the various plates used in this period. It lacks the depth of Simon's study, but presents the wider picture.

Regrettably the material available is inadequate to fully define the flaw history of the plate, but there is sufficient to identify many of the flaws, and to approximately date their first appearance and the subsequent repair to many of them.

THE ¼d DUTY PLATE

The ¼d value was first introduced in 1909 for the KEVII issue. The duty plate was made as a 60-set plate, the die proof from the De la Rue's Striking Book being annotated '29th April' and '60 leads'. Eight printings were made prior to the introduction of the KGV series, but there appears to be no known duty plate flaws on the KEVII ¼d value. In common with all values of the Leeward Is. series the plate was increased in size from 60 to 120-set early in (possibly at the beginning of) the life of the KGV issue. The evidence for this lies in the existence of flaws that are present on only one of the two panes, rather than on both. The die proof for increasing the size of the ¼d plate, stating the number of leads struck, has yet to come to light.

Because the original 60-set plate had been so little used (only 2,050 sheets of 120 for the eight printings in the KEVII era) it is probable that the increase in size to 120-set was achieved by the addition of a new 60-set plate. This was probably made by stereotyping (all duty plates of this design, for all colonies, made between March 1911 and mid-1913 were produced by this method). Plates made by stereotyping were rather less robust than those produced by electrotyping, and it is perhaps no coincidence that the RH pane appears to have progressively received far more serious damage (resulting in flaws) than did the LH pane, and that the LH pane was probably the original electrotyped plate made in 1909. My LH pane from Plate 1a, emanating from either the second or third KGV printing (1912 or 1913) shows a sharp, crisp impression from all subjects, with not a single flaw.

As the KGV era progressed flaws began to appear. Various attempts were made to repair the plate, and some flaws appear and later disappear. By the only printing made from Plate 26 in February 1933 the RH pane in particular was in a sorry state. In addition to numerous flaws, the general shape and clarity of impression of the lettering and value tablet frame was very poor in many cases. The Crown Agents' Register of Dies, Plates, Formes, etc. has a note appended against the entry for the ¼d plate that states 'Plate to be destroyed. See note attached to plate.' This remark was added not later than c.mid-1933 (after which the register was replaced by a new one, no longer extant), and was probably made after the Pl. 26 printing. It is known that a new plate was made for the first KGVI printing, the new duty plate featuring marginal rules for the first time, producing a double rule on the printed sheet.

REGISTER OF DUTY PLATE

On left panes examined from Plates 1a and 23, the duty plate imprints on the three bottom rows are centred slightly low in relation to those of the key plate (Figure 1). All others are relatively well centred. This suggests that the original 60-set plate was cut up into a block of 18 subjects (bottom three rows), a block of 24 (centre four rows) and another of 18 (top three rows), each block being either screwed or nailed in position on to the base board. This method of plate construction is known to have been used for the complete series of duty plates[1] made for the Malta 'Oaks and Laurels' issue in 1914 (the Malta 1/- plate, each pane divided into blocks of 18, 24 and 18 subjects, is illustrated on p.47 of Michael Oliver's Leeward Is. book[2]).

This practice differs from that employed for stereotyped plates, where sub-plates of 12 subjects were made (two rows of six). Five such sub-plates were necessary to make up each 60-set pane. From other colonies it is known that in some instances the sub-plates were divided into smaller blocks, each individually mounted on the base board. In the Plate 20 block illustrated in Figure 2 it can be seen that the duty plate impression on the first three subjects of the top row are misaligned to top left in relation to those beneath. The tilt to the 'LEEWARD ISLANDS' tablet on position 1/1 had been repaired by the Plate 23 printing, and it was probably necessary to remove this block to effect the repair. When it was remounted the misalignment was corrected, and it is no longer apparent by the Plate 23 printing. More minor misalignments occur throughout the RH pane by virtue of its composition of many individually mounted blocks which could, and did, move during the life of the plate.

Row 6

7

8

9

Figure 1 – Plate 1a, showing the slight duty plate misalignment between Rows 6, 7 & 8,

Figure 2 – Plate 20, showing duty plate misalignment between Rows 1 and 2.

THE FLAWS

The following list of flaws comprise a number that are worthy of catalogue listing. Others (particularly aberrations to the top of the value tablet frame) are minor (plate characteristic might be a better term than flaw in these cases), but nonetheless can often provide useful dating evidence for the state of the plate at a specific printing and date. I can confirm Simon's observation that although examples of damage to the colony name lettering and the top of the value tablet frame are plentiful, not a single example of damage to the figure of value has been encountered. Similarly there were no examples of damage to the lower frame line of the value tablet.

In addition to many corner blocks from most plates (except Plate 2), the principal material available for study has been:-

Plate 1a – LH pane of 60.
Plate 1b – column 6 of LH pane, columns 1–4 of RH pane.
Plate 5 – top three rows from RH pane, blk. of 10, 3/1 to 7/2 (with single perf hole in interpanneau margin in each row, opposite name tablet).
Plate 10 – RH pane of 60.
Plate 20 – top three rows from RH pane.

Plate 21 – blk. of 12, 8/3 to 10/6 on LH pane
Plate 23 – complete 120–set sheet.
Plate 26 – complete 120–set sheet.
Plate 28 – blk. of 30, 1/1 to 5/6 on RH pane, 9/3 to 10/6 on LH pane.

The first appearance of the flaws can be approximately dated by reference to the period of use of the various numbered key plates, as per the table below. This is a rather crude dating method for those plates with multiple printings of the ¼d value, but nonetheless generally provides reasonable accuracy within a year or two.

Date Span of Key Plates / Printings

Plate No.	No. Of Printings	Date Of Printings From This Plate
1a	3	May 1912, Aug 1912, Feb 1913
1b	3	Feb 1914, Jun 1914 (2)
2	1	Mar 1915
5	3	Jul 1916, Jul 1917, Oct 1918
6	1	Jan 1919
10	4	Apr 1922, Aug 1922, Jun 1923 (2)
11	2	Jul 1924, Mar 1925
20	1	Nov 1927
21	3	Jun 1929, Jul 1929, Apr 1931
23	1	Oct 1931
26	1	Feb 1933
28	2	Oct 1936, Jan 1938

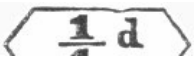
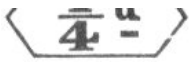
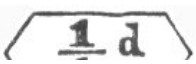
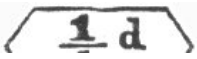
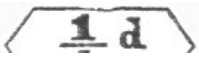
Note:- Proven examples from Plate 2, including plate number copies, are rare.

KEY TO FLAW TABLES

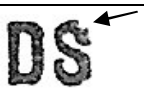
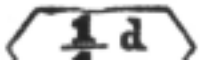
The following table details flaws on printings from Key Plates 1 – 26. Those from Plate 28 will be dealt with in Part 2.

● – flaw present ○ – flaw not present blank – no material available

Left Pane

Row/ stamp	Description		Key Plate No. 1a	1b	2	5	6	10	11	20	21	23	26
1/1	Dent in top of frame just before 'd'		○			○	○	○	○		○	●	●
2/3	State 1 Break in lower right of hexagonal frame		○			●	●					○	○
	State 2 Dent in top of frame between '1' and 'd'		○			○	○					●	●
2/6	Break in top of frame above '1'		○	○								●	●
3/4	Dent in top of frame between '1' and 'd'		○									●	●
6/1	Dent in top of frame, between '1' and 'd'		○									●	●
10/2	Short RH leg of 'W', slanting cut to top of 'A'		○	○		○	●	●		●	○	○	○
10/6	Slight dent, break in top frame, above '1'		○	○				○			○	●	●

Right Pane

Row/ stamp	Description		Key Plate No. 1a	1b	2	5	6	10	11	20	21	23	26
1/1	'LEEWARD' slopes down			○				●		●		○	○
1/2	Diagonal of 'N' does not meet RH leg at base			○		●		●		●		●	●
1/3	Broken top tail of final 'S'			●		●		●		●		○	○
1/6	'LEEWARD ISLANDS' slopes up		○			○		○		○	○	●	○
1/6	Notch in top tail of final 'S'		○			○		○		○		○	●
2/3	Misshapen 'D' in 'ISLANDS'			○				○		○		○	●
2/6	'LEEWARD ISLANDS' slopes up					○				○	○	●	○
3/5	Bent and lumpy LH leg of 'N'					●		●		●		●	●
3/6	Chipped base of 'D' in LEEWARD					○		○		●	●	●	●
5/4	Short RH leg of 'R', base of 'D' cropped			○				○				●	●
5/6	Notch on horizontal bar of 1st 'L', 'L' leans to right							●				●	●
	1st 'E' – short lower bar, 2nd 'E' – elongated lower bar 'W' – curved, elongated RH leg							○				●	●
7/1	Two notches on frame to left of '1'			○		●		●				○	○
	Short LH leg of 'R' at base			○				○				●	●
7/4	State 1 'LEEWARD' slopes down			○				●				●	○
	State 2 Bent top bar of 1st 'E', Tall, distorted 2nd 'D'			○				○				●	●
8/4	Dent in top of frame			○				○				●	○
8/6	Large dent in top of frame							○				●	○
9/1	Short 'I' at base,			○				○				●	●

Row/ stamp	Description		Key Plate No. 1a	1b	2	5	6	10	11	20	21	23	26
9/3	1) 'ISLANDS' slopes up 2) Short top tail of final 'S'			●				●				○	○
10/3	Angled top of 1st 'L'			○		○		●				●	●
10/5	Stroke thru final 'S'		●			●	●	●	●	●		○	○
10/6	'LEEWARD ISLANDS' slopes up					○	○	○		○		●	○

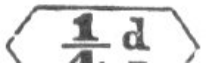
FLAWS NOT POSITIONED OR DATED

(not present on above mentioned sheets, panes or blocks)

Die I – Mult. Crown CA

'A' – top cut slanting 'N' – serifs at top, lump on LH leg 'D' – serif at top left	
Break in top of frame to left of '1'	

Die II – Mult. Script CA

Two frame breaks, at upper left and lower right	

REPAIRS TO THE PLATE

Where repairs were carried out they were generally undertaken on the more prominent flaws, most of the minor aberrations presumably being considered not worth the effort.

Prominent flaws on LP 10/2, RP 1/3 and RP 10/5 present up to the Pl. 20 printing (1927) have disappeared prior to the Pl. 23 printing (1931), possibly after the Pl. 20 printing. By the Pl. 23 printing a number of more serious flaws had occurred, particularly on the right pane, and a number of these, including the large dents in the top of the value tablet frame on RP 8/4 and 8/6, were repaired prior to the Pl. 26 printing.

However, there are major differences in the state of the plate following the Pl. 26 printing, which will be considered in greater detail in Part 2.

It is hoped that this article will stimulate others to provide additional information to fill in some of the missing gaps. Photocopies of complete sheets or panes from plates not seen by me would be very helpful, but large blocks would be equally welcome, particularly (but not essentially) where the plate number is known. Please contact me at 128 Sinclair Avenue, Banbury, Oxon OX16 1BL or email: pfernbank@tiscali.co.uk.

My thanks to Tony Farmer, Michael Oliver and Michael Spaven for providing much material from their collections that provided the initial basis for this study.

REFERENCES:-

1. The Philatelic Society (Malta) Magazine Vol.16 No. 3 December 1987, p.22-29
2. The Leeward Islands – Notes for Philatelists, Michael Oliver, p.47

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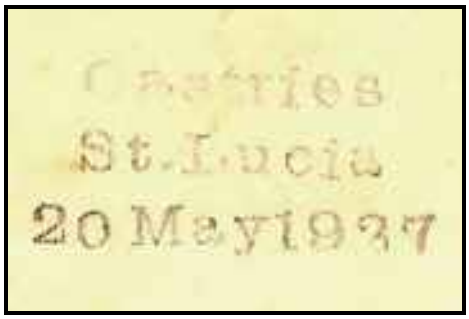
ST. LUCIA

REGISTRATION AFTER THE 1927 FIRE

BY GUY KILBURN

St. Lucia collectors are familiar with the provisional cancel used in Castries after the fire of 14–15 May 1927 (Figure 1). Struck in purple or black it was in use from 15 May to 20 May. Destruction of the Post Office and much, though not all, of its contents required other innovations and we can see this in the process of registration.

Figure 1



The boxed rubber registration handstamp (Ritchie S3) (Figure 2) that was in use at the time was apparently burned and it seems that it was replaced by a crude unboxed sans-serif temporary 'R' handstamp (Figure 3). This example, used on 17 June, is a photocopy of a cover not in my collection. It is numbered '15' in manuscript. The cover shown in Figure 4 has an addition that to me is startling. This busy postal stationery registration envelope dated '14 JY 27', bears not only the new 'R' hand stamp but also what appears to be a forerunner of the first printed registration label (Ritchie L1) which did not come into use until about 1936. The blue-green label, measuring 34.5mm x 18.5mm-19.5mm, is imperf at the right and is roughly perforated on the other sides, suggesting that it is from a sheet of labels.

Figure 2

Originally numbered 'No. 263' in type, it was re-numbered '264' in manuscript. Postage due enthusiasts will immediately see the unmistakable similarity between this registration label and the locally produced postage due stamps issued in January of 1930. These two covers are the only ones I have seen.

Editor's Note: Alistair Kinnon has kindly supplied a further example, also dated 14 July 1927, illustrated in Figure 5.

Figure 3

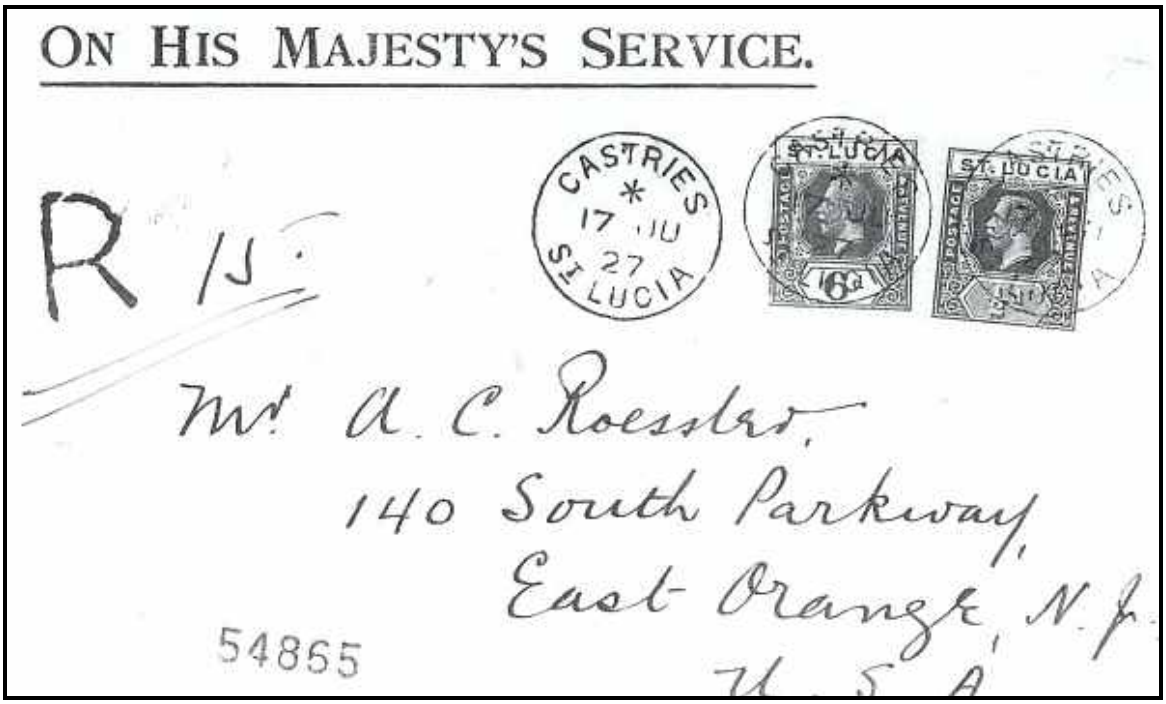
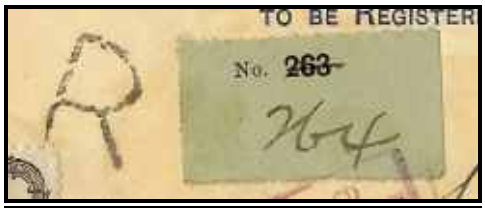
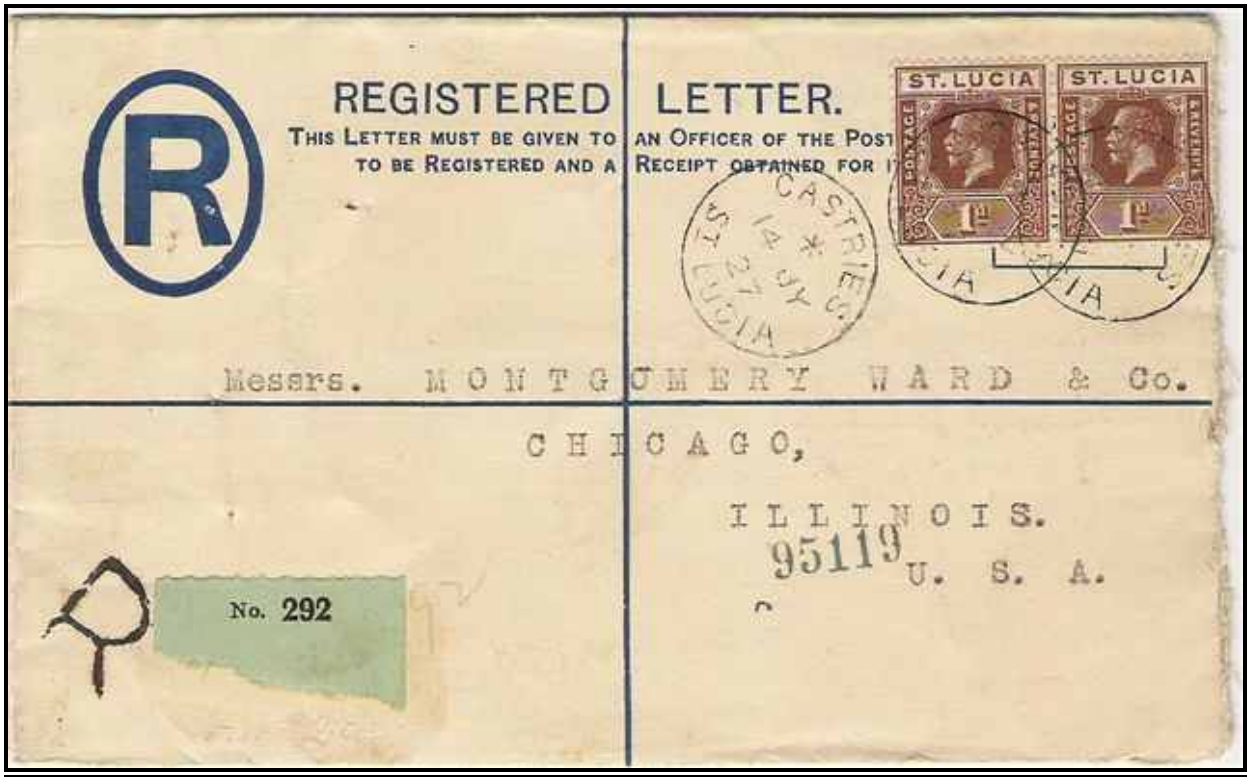


Figure 4



(actual size)

Figure 5



TRINIDAD

SOME RECENT DISCOVERIES.

BY EDWARD BARROW

Figure 1

I recently came across three Trinidad postal history items that may be of interest to fellow collectors. The first of these is an unrecorded Type 7 '22' numeral of Claxton Bay, shown in Figure 1. A Type 7 '22' with a smaller diameter and with smaller numbers has been recorded by Marriott and it has been suspected that a bigger brother existed. Luckily the strike is a clear one which leaves no doubt of its pedigree. Figure 2 shows a computer reconstruction of the full cancel.

Figure 2

The second is also a numeral, not an unrecorded one but a later reallocation of a Type 4 '18' (see Figure 3). There are more than one '18' Type 4 numerals recorded and some or all were reallocated circa 1900. However I have not seen a reference to one being used circa 1929. This '18' is the original one used at Princes Town and not the later one which Mike Hamilton has attributed to Tobago.

Figure 3

Trying to ascertain where reallocated numerals were used is a fertile area for speculation and who am I to break the tradition. It is fortunate that the stamp also received what I suspect was a transit cancel. After careful examination this appears to be a Type V [1] cancel from San Fernando, dated 23 Sept 1929 – (there are two San Fernando Type Vs, this is the one with wider spaced lettering, D15 in Proud). This would indicate that it was used at a Post Office whose mail went via San Fernando. There are three likely suspects that have no recorded cancelling devices for 1929.

- Cap de Ville; gap from 1924-1937.
- Icacos; gap from 1927- 1935.
- Oropouche; gap from 1920 -1930, but had a Type V which was probably issued at the same time as San Fernando and just has not been recorded for 1929.

Given the rarity of the usage, I would put someone else's money on Cap de Ville as the leading suspect.

The final cancel is a Type XI of St. Joseph shown in Figure 4. This cancel was recorded in Proud (D10), but not in Addiss et al. However in the former it came with the note 'Not for postal purposes?' indicating that perhaps it was only recorded as a proof. This example is dated 23 Nov 1948 and it looks like a postal usage to me.

:

Figure 4

References

1. Addiss, Edward F., Reuben A. Ramkissoon, and Walton Van Winkle
   The Town Cancels of Trinidad and Tobago, BCPSG Monograph (1981)
2. Chin Aleong, Joe & Proud, Edward
   The Postal History of Trinidad & Tobago, Heathfield, Proud Bailey (1997)
3. Marriott, John
   The Philatelic History of Trinidad to 1862, BWISC Study paper No. 3. (1963)

TRINIDAD

PRE-STAMP HANDSTAMPS CANCELLING ADHESIVES

BY MICHAEL HAMILTON

I cannot recall any collector actively pursuing collecting pre-stamp markings cancelling B.W.I. adhesives but when one looks closely at what is available one finds there is sufficient material for a small display!

A new candidate would appear to be the first type 'TRINIDAD' fleuron (Marriott Type C2a used period 1815 to 1822) cancelling imperforate 1859 6d deep green (SG28).

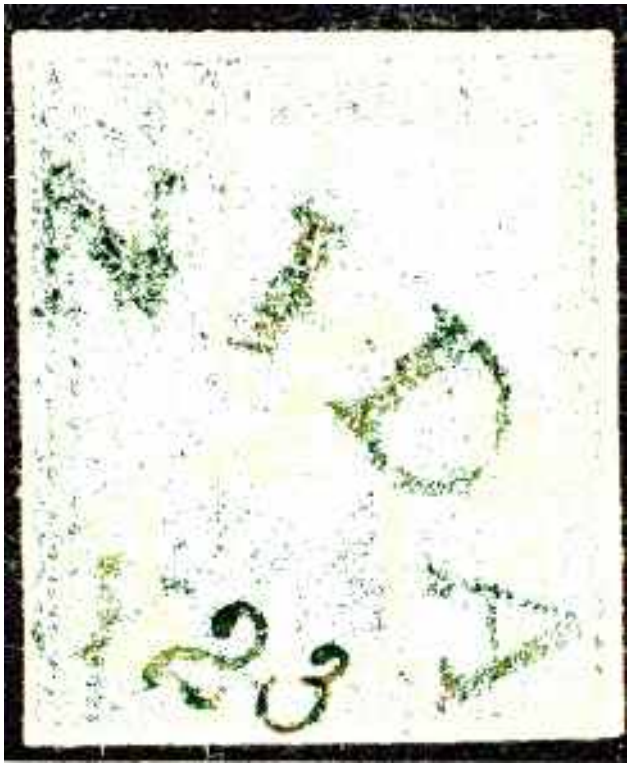
Prepayment of letters to the UK was made fully compulsory as of 1 January 1859 and the imperforated 6d was invoiced 14 April 1859. The issue date, as supplied by Stanley Gibbons, was 9 May 1859.

This 6d clearly shows the 'NIDA' of 'TRINIDAD' and the measurements when matched against the illustrated clear strike of the actual handstamp tend to show that there is a more than reasonable chance that the cancel is genuine.

The cancel clearly shows the month ending in 'Y' and enlargement shows sufficient of a downward slope of a right-hand side of an 'A' indicating the month as 'MAY'. The day is a manuscript '23' and as the later pin-perf. 6d was issued in September 1859 all indications are that the imperf. 6d was cancelled on 23 May 1859.

Two outgoing entires despatched 25 May 1859 are recorded; the first stampless with 'PAID AT TRINIDAD' Crowned Circle to London (Ex Forsyth) and the second with 1d deep blue litho to Naples (Ex. Marriott) making a 23 May 1859 date a very plausible rural office despatch date to catch the second sailing of the month.

The earliest dated 6d imperforate on entire to London is thought to be 23 July 1859 (Ex Charlton Henry).



TURKS ISLANDS

CROWN CA 1d FLAWS

BY PETER MARSHALL

Two flaws are listed and positioned on the 1d issue, the 'Throat' & 'Neck' flaws. I have recently identified a third, similar flaw, on this value, being in the centre at the base of the profile.

Does anyone else has a similar example, can it be positioned?

Neck Flaw
R3/2

Throat Flaw
R3/4

New Flaw

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

ST. KITTS UNUSUAL POSTMARK?

BY SIMON SMITH

I've come across this St. Kitts postmark which doesn't seem to be listed anywhere.

It has a particularly strange upward stroke on the 'K' and the last 'S' is well spaced away from' KITT'.

Any comments and information would be welcome (via the Editor Ref 211/01).

ST. LUCIA WAR TAX RESEARCH

BY JOHN DAVIS

I am trying to complete my research into the St. Lucia War Tax stamps.

I know that an adopted and an unadopted essay exist – Robson Lowe sale Feb 1979, but I would like to get a photocopy or scan of them, or even better, have sight of the real thing. Do any members know where they are now?

The same goes for imperforate proofs, except I have no record of them existing, but am sure they must have done as with all other colonies.

Is it known how many of the stamps were locally overprinted War Tax, or where I may be able to find this information, if records exist?

When the War Tax was abolished on 30 June 1919, Ewens reported that all existing stocks of War Tax stamps were destroyed. Is it known how many stamps were destroyed, or where I may be able to find this information? I have a feeling that no records exist.

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Murray Payne Ltd are delighted to announce that after the success of their first auction last summer we will be holding our second in early 2007. Expected to be included in this sale is a substantial collection of KGVI keytypes both mint and used: a comprehensive collection of KGVI unmounted including Bahamas 8d 'Coiumbus' block, Grenada 2½d and strong overprints on Great Britain; used Japanese Occupation from an estate, and other exciting properties have been promised.

Leeward Is CW 12aB - #59i flaw

Charkhari SG 56 UM

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AUCTION UPDATE BY CHARLES FREELAND

SPINK 4 OCTOBER 2006, JAFFÉ BWI

Although work prevented me from attending this important BWI occasion, I understand there were many happy faces among our members at the results. The nature of the collection and its variable quality would have deterred the investment community and the result was that our members seem to have carved up many of the goodies on offer, appropriately enough for a collection formed by one of our former Vice-Presidents. Although a number of high prices were achieved, even the highest looked to be in the ball-park and there were quite a few bargains to be had.

Those in attendance included Ron Cronin (happily recovered from injury), Simon Goldblatt, Simon Greenwood, Michael Hamilton, Michael Medlicott and James Podger, who left after the Cayman section with a smug grin on his face. Many other members were active on the book or through agents, although the phones were for once relatively silent. All those I have contacted were pleased with what they obtained and some important items have found good homes.

I have already described the collection in general terms but on extended viewing discovered several 'sleepers', which together with the conservative estimates made the mixed lots very attractive and in the end most lots sold. The quiet patches were mostly pre-adhesive covers of poor quality, even if many of the marks were elusive. In particular, this was a good opportunity to pick up a scarce Crowned Circle if you were not choosy about quality. But at the other extreme the two rare Montserrat pre-adhesives (the single line Montserrat and the three line mark) each went to £6,500 after a strong battle (all prices plus 15%) and Montserrat as a whole proved popular. British Guiana was pretty lively but with few exceptions the strong showings of Dominica, Grenada and Nevis did not arouse much enthusiasm. Some very rare Turks Is provisionals for once attracted little competition and I hope we will see them one day at one of our society displays. The undenominated Britannia die proof listed under Trinidad was damned by its description and fetched a reasonable £3,800, while the three Grenada Perkins Bacon die proofs (1d, 6d and the 1875 fiscal head) went for £2,400, £1,800 and £1,900 respectively. There were not as many Perkins Bacon 'CANCELLED's as one might have expected and the prices were rather less than their predecessors. At a more modest level, the only detached triangle flaw that was lotted singly, the Nevis 4d grey mint, fetched a healthy £320, although there were several among the mixed lots for the eagle-eyed – one was on a specimen, now that's rare. Finally, each of the cancellation lots contained items of interest and competition for these was strong with Michael Hamilton proving hard to beat.

GROSVENOR 3 NOVEMBER, TOMKINS BRITISH EMPIRE

This substantial offering of British Commonwealth mint (and occasional used) stamps was reminiscent of Sir Gawaine Baillie in its coverage, albeit on a far smaller scale and without many blocks. The quality was good (except for some oxidisation here and there, especially on the Bahamas) and the remainder lots were neatly mounted and arranged, but the overall impression was somewhat sterile with few used, covers or proofs.

For once I was able to harmonise a business trip so as to get over to the sale, but a fat lot of good it did me as, encouraged by extensive pre-sale publicity, the dreaded builders of investor portfolios appeared to be out in force, driving many of the rare stamps in fine condition above their Gibbons prices. The room was pretty full with the usual dealer suspects present. I sat with Michael Medlicott and think I spotted Simon Greenwood skulking at the back for the Br. Guiana and Br. Honduras. Grosvenor had prepared a fine catalogue, accurate photos conveniently positioned (I get a bit fed up with hunting through pages of photos to locate the right picture) and attractive estimates, but they do tend to be economical about condition. Starting at the lower end for once, the rare Thompson flaws looked good value, the slightly soiled Antigua 4d blue used fetching £300 (all prices plus 15%) and a lovely copy of the Nevis 1/- £850. The Bahamas nearly all sold despite the toasted impression of many of the rare items, with the 1862 cover bearing SG5 in a lilac-ish shade fetching £1,600. In Br. Guiana there was strong demand for a lovely selection of the 1862 type-set stamps, those with their roulettes intact fetching around Gibbons price. One of the few bargains of the day was the 1888 revenue $4 with large 4 from the second column, slightly toned as are nearly all those I have seen, at £350. Among the Br. Honduras revenue varieties, the 5c block with unit 4/2 showing the badly deformed 'S' was £350, the Plate 2 strip of 10c one 'REVENU' was £420

and a doubtful 'BEVENUE' on a pair of 50c £2,800. The Montserrat inverted 'S' flaws went as expected but the philatelic cover with five 1d bisects to Matson was more than double the Jaffé realisation at £1k. In some fine Nevis the remarkable price to me was the £750 paid for the 1d litho close-cut imperf pair with some missing gum, although the two imperf between varieties were snapped up by the big boys at £9k for the 4d and 16k for the 1/-. A strong double on the St. Lucia 1d / 4d that for once did not look like a bounce was £260. Of the 'investment' items, there were few bargains throughout unless the quality was poor. For me the pick was the St. Christopher 1d on 2½d inverted at £19k, but this fetched less than the Bermuda 2d with missing stop (£22k).

The estate beneficiaries will have been very pleased with the results…the previous day's offering of Malaya and Borneo went equally well.

SPINK 8 NOVEMBER, JAFFÉ BARBADOS

This eagerly awaited event fully lived up to expectations with the bloodbath experienced at Grosvenor continuing into the following week. A much more manageable catalogue than the Jaffé BWI sale, and its emphasis on single high-quality lots, attracted the big punters. The total result of just over £200,000 was almost double the high estimate. Although the room was sparsely populated with only two BWISC members (Peter Longmuir and Simon Goldblatt) present, the phones and agents were very active and internet bidding is also picking up (though the system did go down at a crucial moment for one of our members). The results and the breadth of the bidders demonstrated that Barbados philately, after a bit of a lull in the mid-90s, is again in robust heath.

The highlights are hard to summarise because many lots made multiples of their admittedly modest estimates. There were three main buyers, two phone bidders and a client of Mary Weeks who carried off the principal spoils, spending around £70,000. The four Ormond Hill 'Cancelled's went for a total of £34,000, a substantial premium over the comparable St. Vincent and Trinidad items despite each stamp having at least one straight edge. Far less surprising in the light of recent trends were the high prices for large multiples in fine condition. The many desirable die proofs were patchy, those where there were two examples realising comprehensible prices but the single Perkins Bacon ½d at £3k, the 4d at £3.2k and the De La Rue 1882 master proof at £1.3k going way above any previous realisation. Another feature was the demand for the many of the stamped covers that have been somewhat dull in recent sales. The damaged part front to Martinique with a pair of pin-perf ½ds made £2.6k and the pretty double rate franking to North Carolina £1.2k. However, there was disappointment at the sale room announcement that the cover to Australia pictured on the back of the catalogue had a stamp that did not belong. The two Poole officers covers fetched £750 and £420…plainly not inspired by the recent bulletin article.

So where were the bargains for our members to squabble over? Obviously the single stamps and mixed lots in average condition, the pre-adhesives and lower value covers (though there were some surprises here) and perhaps more surprisingly Peter's extensive study of the 1d on 5/- surcharges. However, the pickings were thin indeed for those without deep pockets.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Too late for those who do not download the bulletin from our website (remember that Steve posts it as soon as he sends it to the printers, several weeks before the hard copy reaches you), Matthew Bennett are offering Ben Ramkissoon's Tobago and Trinidad collections in Zurich on 6 December. Some may regard the choice of auction house as strange but this is my 'local' so I will be in a good position to judge the European action. I feel sure his two Lady McLeod covers will not go cheaply but have hopes of being able to sneak a few Tobago lots. The 480 lots look to be estimated reasonably but there is a 20% buyers' premium!

Early 2007 is going to be busy for BWI collectors. On 17 January we are promised the second part of the Jaffé St. Vincent, to be followed in March by his exhibition collection of St. Lucia. In February Shreves will sell Richard Maisell's large gold Cayman Is, a remarkable 20th century assembly which will certainly be in demand. On 8 March Argyll Etkin will offer Chris Crutwell's St. Lucia postal history (which includes the Ted Proud collection) and Empire airmails including strong Trinidad. This will be a heavy week for the St. Lucia collector because Spink are offering the Jaffé collection the day before.

Finally, Spink is selling Derek Nathan's main collection of British Guiana on 2 April, another opportunity to load your credit cards, if by then you have any credit left (remember you have to tell Spink within seven days if you want to avoid any charges).

GIBBONS PRICING

Since the editor has granted me extra space this time around, I can offer the Christmas greetings that he has forgotten and offer a couple of thoughts on the recently issued Gibbons 1840-1952 catalogue, no longer as thin as it used to be. If you collect St. Vincent you have to buy this edition as there has been significant repricing in the light of the Jaffé realisations – mostly upwards but a couple downwards. For example, all the imperf between varieties have been given a boost (the only one that is offered more than once in a blue moon is the 6d green that rises form £5.5 to £10k). Other items with a similar upgrade are SG19, 19a, 41, 43, 43a and the 'Spicemen' flaw (all mint ex SG41 where the used also rises steeply). Elsewhere there have been modest rises in many 'normal' stamps and some expected sharp increases in the 'big gun' items, notably in British Honduras, where the 1d strip imperf between goes from £7k to £20k! There have been across the board increases in the Thompson flaws and in other scarce flaws and watermark varieties. There are several new watermark errors and prices have been added for the first time for quite a number of others. After a pause last year the editor has again enthusiastically upgraded the postage dues of Grenada and St. Lucia.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT **IAN JAKES**

THE ST. KITTS RAILWAYS BY JIM HORSFORD, DONATED BY DAVID KING

This full colour soft bound book (ISBN No. 1 – 900340 – 18 – 6) consisting of 64 pages is not a philatelic book and yet it is well worth a place in our library. Many philatelists are also railway enthusiasts, including myself. If St. Kitts collectors all require information about the island of St. Christopher itself and this is the best book on the island's history and geography that I have read. The railway which was built for the transportation of sugar cane from the fields to the factory runs around the whole of the northern (larger) part of the island. Only the undeveloped southernmost peninsula (the 'wilderness' or Salt Pond area) is not served by the line.

The book commences with a history of the sugar in St. Kitts, the islands main industry, and continues with the development of the railway. The main line is described in great detail, so much so, that you can picture the varying landscapes as you traverse the island. This is aided by some wonderful colour photographs. Then follows a description and illustrations of the steam and later diesel locomotives and rolling stock. The book ends with the St. Kitts Railway Passenger Train saga. We can now ride the passenger train on this industrial island. The book makes a visit to the island very desirable.

A must for all railway buffs and those interested in this unique island.

peter singer

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Revisions to contact details should be provided to the Hon. Secretary, Peter Boulton, address inside front cover.

In this issue and in future, membership updates will be issued as loose booklet style inserts for the membership booklet.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT — IAN JAKES

Library lists can be supplied upon application to Hon. Librarian accompanied by an S.A.E. (9" x 6½") – 2nd Class postage for 150 gm rate required.

If any member has a book which is not already in the library and which is surplus to requirements, perhaps that member will consider donating it to the library.

EDITOR & WEB-MASTER'S REPORT — STEVE JARVIS

Peter Fernbank has continued scanning early editions of the Bulletin. He has now reached edition 139, which are all now on our web site. Peter has also brought the Index of Bulletins up-to-date (Bulletin #202). An updated listing is now available for download from the web site or printed copy by application to the Hon. Editor at £2.00 or $US4.00.

Please view Charles Freeland regular updates to his 'Auction Alert' article.

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The proposed publication schedule for 2007 is as follows:

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From Printer	Fri 9 Mar	Fri 8 June	Fri 31 Aug	Fri 30 Nov
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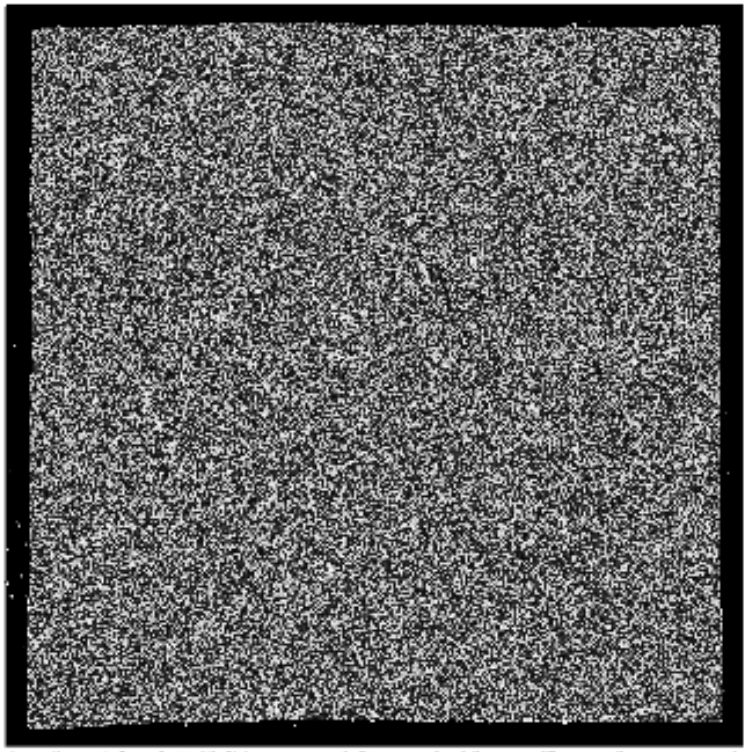

Jamaica: Postal fiscal 1865-70 watermark Pineapple 1d. rose. Fine and rare imperforate block of four. Catalogue value £1,000. To be offered in our forthcoming auction.

Interesting material from the British West Indies is often included in both Harmers All-World and specialised auctions.

We are currently accepting material for our future auctions.
If you have a collection and would like to know the value,
please don't hesitate to contact our team for a free valuation.

For more information about our forthcoming auctions contact us at the address below or visit our website www.harmers.com

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